Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 /069 W

P R 231140Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5512 INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY DOHA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS : ETRD

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: DISCRIMINATORY REQUESTS

REF: (A) STATE 10640, (B) ABU DHABI 0217

- 1. ON JANUARY 23, I RAISED WITH MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAIF GHUBBASH BOYCOTT RELATED REPORT FROM GENERAL MOTORS WHICH SEEMED TO APPLY RELIGIOUS CRITERIA FOR BOYCOTT PURPOSES. I READ TO GHUBBASH EXTRACT OF CABLE WHICH HAD BEEN SENT BY UAE BOYCOTT OFFICE TO GM INQQIRING ABOUT SHARES HELD BY THE AJC. NOT HAVING RECEIVED RESPONSE TO MY QUERY (REF B), I SAID I BELIEVED THAT THIS MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT RECENTLY BY UAE BOYCOTT OFFICE TO GM.
- 2. GHUBBASH AGREED THAT MESSAGE FROM UAE BOYCOTT OFFICE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS BEING RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED QUESTION. HE AFFIRMED IT WAS CONTRARY TO UAEG POLICY TO INVOKE RELIGION OR CREED IN APPLICATION OF BOYCOTT. GHUBBASH ALSO SAID THAT UAE APPRECIATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACT THAT SHARES OF US COMPANIES ARE FREELY PURCHASED AND SOLD IN STOCK MARKET AND THAT NO US COMPANY CAN PREVENT BUYING AND SELLING OF ITS SHARES. THEREUPON GHUBBASH IN MY PRESENCE, CALLED UAE BOYCOTT OFFICE, AND SPOKE TO AHMAD SABBAH, ONE OF THE DIRECTORS. AFTER READING TEXT OF MESSAGE SENT TO GM, GHUBBASH ASKED WHY SUCH A MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT. UAE BOYCOTT OFFICER, WHOM I COULD HEAR

OVER THE PHONE, DENIED THAT HIS OFFICE HAD SENT ANY SUCH MESSAGE TO GENERAL MOTORS AND INQUIRED WHEN IT WAS SENT AND IF IT HAD COME DIRECTLY FROM CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS IN DAMASCUS. NOT HAVING ANY DETAILS TO GIVE TO GHUBBASH, I SAID I WOULD INQUIRE. GHUBBASH THEN ASKED IF ONE OF GM'S AGENTS IN UAE, WHO MIGHT HAVE SEEN THE JTA PRESS RELEASE, COULD HAVE RAISED QUESTION WITH GM. AGAIN I SAID I WOULD HAVE TO INQUIRE.

3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE MINISTER GHUBBASH'S STATE-MENT AND REACTION TO MY DEMARCHE REFLECTS UAEG POLICY THAT RELIGION OR CREED NOT PART OF ARAB BOYCOTT AS FAR AS UAE CONCERNED. I DO NOT INTEND TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER UNLESS DEPARTMENT CAN FURNISH ME WITH DETAILS REQUESTED IN REF B ON DATE MESSAGE WAS SENT TO GM AND UAE BOYCOTT OFFICE AND IF MESSAGE SIGNED BY ANY UAE OFFICIAL.

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Message Attributes

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Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT: DISCRIMINATORY REQUESTS

TAGS: ETRD, XF, IS, TC, GENERAL MOTORS

To: STATE Type: TE

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